

FACT SHEET



Container Recycling Site Kansas City, Kansas

March 2000

Introduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 is currently overseeing removal activities at the Container Recycling site, 1161 S. 12th Street, Kansas City, Kansas. Drums and trailers are currently being removed from the site. Earlier investigations indicate the site poses a risk to human health and the environment.

EPA is also conducting a site investigation to determine whether a remedial response will be needed at the site. EPA has temporary facilities on the site and has partially fenced the site.

The site is currently occupied by Palex, Inc. (Palex), a lessee of Alliance Industrial Service, LLC (Alliance), based in Clive, Iowa. Alliance recently purchased the site. Palex plans to refurbish and operate the former drum reconditioning plant as a drum distribution center and pallet manufacturing facility.

EPA and Alliance recently entered into a Prospective Purchaser Agreement. Under this agreement, Alliance agreed to address the storage tanks, trailers and empty drums on the site. EPA will address the contaminated soils, and other areas of contamination on the site.

EPA is conducting site activities under the

Superfund program. Congress established the Superfund program in 1980 in response to growing concerns over human health and environmental risks posed by hazardous waste sites. Superfund locates, investigates and cleans up hazardous waste sites.

Site Background

The Container Recycling site is about twenty acres in size. In the 1950s the site was used by a local steel mill, in the 1960s it was used to dispose of auto fluff. Auto fluff is the nonmagnetic material that remains after a car is crushed and shredded. Auto fluff was deposited on the site to raise the site grade. The site was used for drum reconditioning from 1965 until 1996, when it ceased operation.

Previous site investigations identified the following concerns:

- The process building had containers of hazardous wastes inside, as well as, contaminated ash, sludge, waste paint and shot from the drum reconditioning process.
- There is a sludge pit, a sludge pond, and a sludge trench with contamination.

- Lead, arsenic, and polyaromatic hydrocarbons have been discovered across the site above health-based levels.
- There is some geophysical testing which indicates there may be buried drums on the site.

Current Activities

Palex and Alliance have removed more than 35,000 drums from the site and emptied the above ground storage tanks. The tanks contained muriatic acid, sulfuric acid, and caustic solution, all hazardous liquids. There are approximately 20,000 remaining empty drums scattered and stacked on the site and 30 trailers full of empty drums. Palex and Alliance are in the process of removing the trailers and empty drums and cleaning the buildings on the site. EPA is overseeing the clearing and removal of drums containing liquids and debris from the site.

The next phase may include determining if there are buried drums on the site. If drums are found to be buried and contain hazardous substances, EPA may excavate the drums. The final phase will address soil contamination across the site, of which the majority is on the eastern portion of the property. It is estimated that these activities will be completed in approximately six months.

Additional Information

EPA encourages community members to review the Administrative Record File (a single file of all site related documents) for the Container Recycling site. The Administrative Record File is available for public review at the following information repository:

EPA Information Resource Center
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas
Monday through Friday
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

If you have questions or need more information on the site, please contact:

Hattie Thomas, Community Involvement Coordinator
EPA Region 7
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101
913-551-7003
Toll-free 1-800-223-0425
Fax: 913-551-7066
E-mail: thomas.hattie@epa.gov

###